



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

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Poultry Programs

March 26, 2008

All Poultry and Egg Processors

NOTICE TO THE TRADE – MARCH 2008

On February 6, 2008, the Food Defense Verification Program Checklist used to audit food defense plans in Poultry Programs' Commodity Purchase Programs was revised to include a scoring component. Scores are for informational purposes only and will remain confidential.

The revised Checklist must be used to audit food defense plans for the school year 2008-2009 purchase program (beginning with deliveries in July). Therefore, potential contractors and subcontractors must have audits conducted after February 6, 2008.

Any nonconformance identified on the Checklist must be addressed in writing to the Contracting Officer within 14 days of the audit. Each written response will be reviewed for acceptance, and the company will receive a written response from the Contracting Officer indicating its eligibility to participate.

As with last year's program, potential contractors may request waivers when pre-award audits cannot be scheduled in time to meet the time required for bid offering.

Follow-up audits may be conducted as required by the Contracting Officer. After the initial audit is completed, subsequent audits will be required annually.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commodity Procurement Branch on 202/720-7693.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Pearson", written over a horizontal line.

Dennis J. Pearson
Contracting Officer